

RESOLUTION 93-28

TO URGE THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO  
PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION BASED UPON SEXUAL ORIENTATION STATEWIDE  
OR GRANT COMMUNITIES MORE CONTROL OVER MATTERS OF HUMAN RIGHTS SO  
THAT IT CAN BE DONE AT A LOCAL LEVEL

- WHEREAS, after a much publicized incident of "gay bashing" last fall, the Bloomington Human Rights Commission held a public hearing to determine the nature and extent of violence and intimidation against homosexuals, and to gather sufficient information to report their recommendations on this matter to the Common Council; and
- WHEREAS, testimony at that hearing established that nearly all gay men and lesbian women have experienced harassment of a verbal or physical nature because of their sexual orientation; and
- WHEREAS, such harassment is due at least in part to the lack of legal protection against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation; and
- WHEREAS, such harassment and lack of protection against discrimination leads to problems ranging from low self esteem to lack of employment and housing opportunities to high suicidal rates among gay and lesbian teenagers; and
- WHEREAS, as a result of the testimony presented at the hearing, the report recommended that the City promote more tolerance in our community; establish an effective forum to mediate allegations of discrimination; and, urge the Indiana State Legislature to adopt laws prohibiting hate crimes and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in employment, housing, public accommodations and education; and
- WHEREAS, in response to these recommendations, the Common Council has passed an ordinance that would make it the public policy of the City of Bloomington to discourage discrimination based upon sexual orientation in education, employment, access to public accommodations and access to housing; and
- WHEREAS, state law does not grant local human rights commissions the same powers to investigate complaints of discrimination based upon sexual orientation as it does with regard to complaints based upon race, sex, religion, national origin, color, ancestry and handicap; and
- WHEREAS, the Common Council desires the Bloomington Human Rights Commission to have the power to investigate and remedy complaints of discrimination based upon sexual orientation with the same powers available for the protection against discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, national origin, color, ancestry, and handicap;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT:

The Common Council urges the State Legislature to prohibit discrimination based upon sexual orientation statewide or to grant cities more local control over matters of human rights so that their human rights commissions may investigate and remedy complaints of discrimination based upon sexual orientation with the same powers they have in regard to complaints based upon race, sex, religion, national origin, color, ancestry, and handicap.

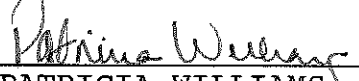
PASSED and ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of  
Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this 8<sup>th</sup> day of  
July, 1993.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JACK W. HOPKINS, President  
Bloomington Common Council

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this 8<sup>th</sup> day of July,  
1993.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
TOMILEA ALLISON, Mayor  
City of Bloomington

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
PATRICIA WILLIAMS, Clerk  
City of Bloomington

Signed copies to  
Governor / Lt. Governor  
State Legislators (7)  
State Attorney General

#### SYNOPSIS

This resolution urges the legislature to prohibit discrimination based upon sexual orientation statewide or to grant local human rights commissions the same power to investigate and remedy complaints of discrimination based upon sexual orientation as they currently have in regard to complaints of discrimination based upon race, sex, religion, national origin, color, ancestry and handicap.

**RESOLUTION 93-29**  
**URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE**  
**TO AUTHORIZE A REFERENDUM ON WHETHER OR NOT TO ENACT A**  
**STATEWIDE "ANTI-CONSUMPTION AND ANTI-OPEN CONTAINER" LAW**

WHEREAS, over the last ten years in Indiana, alcohol-related motor vehicle accidents have caused thousands of deaths and tens of thousands of injuries; and

WHEREAS, in the last few sessions, the State Legislature has considered but failed to adopt a law which prohibits the consumption of an alcoholic beverage or the possession of an open container of an alcoholic beverage while in a motor vehicle that is operating on a public highway; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council acknowledges that the best means of addressing the issue is through the State Legislature; and

WHEREAS, there is an acknowledged lack of empirical data to support or refute the proposition that legislation prohibiting possession of open containers of alcoholic beverages in motor vehicles operating on public highways has a deterrent or other effect on alcohol-related motor vehicle accidents; and

WHEREAS, in absence of such empirical data, the citizenry of the State of Indiana may prove to be the best source for arbitration of this matter; and

WHEREAS, a statewide referendum would conclusively determine whether the citizens of the state support this measure;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT:

The Common Council urges the State Legislature to authorize a public question on whether or not there should be a state law prohibiting both the consumption of alcohol and the possession of an open container of an alcoholic beverage while in a motor vehicle operating on a public highway.

PASSED and ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1993.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 JACK W. HOPKINS, President  
 Bloomington Common Council

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1993.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 TOMILEA ALLISON, Mayor  
 City of Bloomington

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 PATRICIA WILLIAMS, Clerk  
 City of Bloomington

**SYNOPSIS**

This resolution urges the state legislature to authorize a statewide public question on whether or not there should be a state law prohibiting the consumption of alcohol or the possession of an open container of an alcoholic beverage while in an operating motor vehicle.

